

Ecology of Diamondback Terrapins in North Inlet, Winyah Bay, SC

Peter King, FMU

Jennifer Spicer, NERR

Paige Weaver, FMU





Aims

- Mark recapture population study
- Size distribution -population viability
- Habitat utilization - feeding, mating, nesting, juveniles
- Site fidelity
- Diet







Terrapin No 52

1000

100

200

400

700

70

40

20

10

1

2

7

4





Data

- 9 creeks surveyed in summer 2006
- Terrapins found in 5 out of 9
- 45 terrapins, 20 female, 25 male
- 11 creeks surveyed in summer 2007
- Terrapins found in 9 out 11
- 45 terrapins, 15 female, 30 male
- Total
86 terrapins, 33 female, 53 male

Recaptures

- 4 recaptures
- 3 from same creek
- 1 from neighboring creek

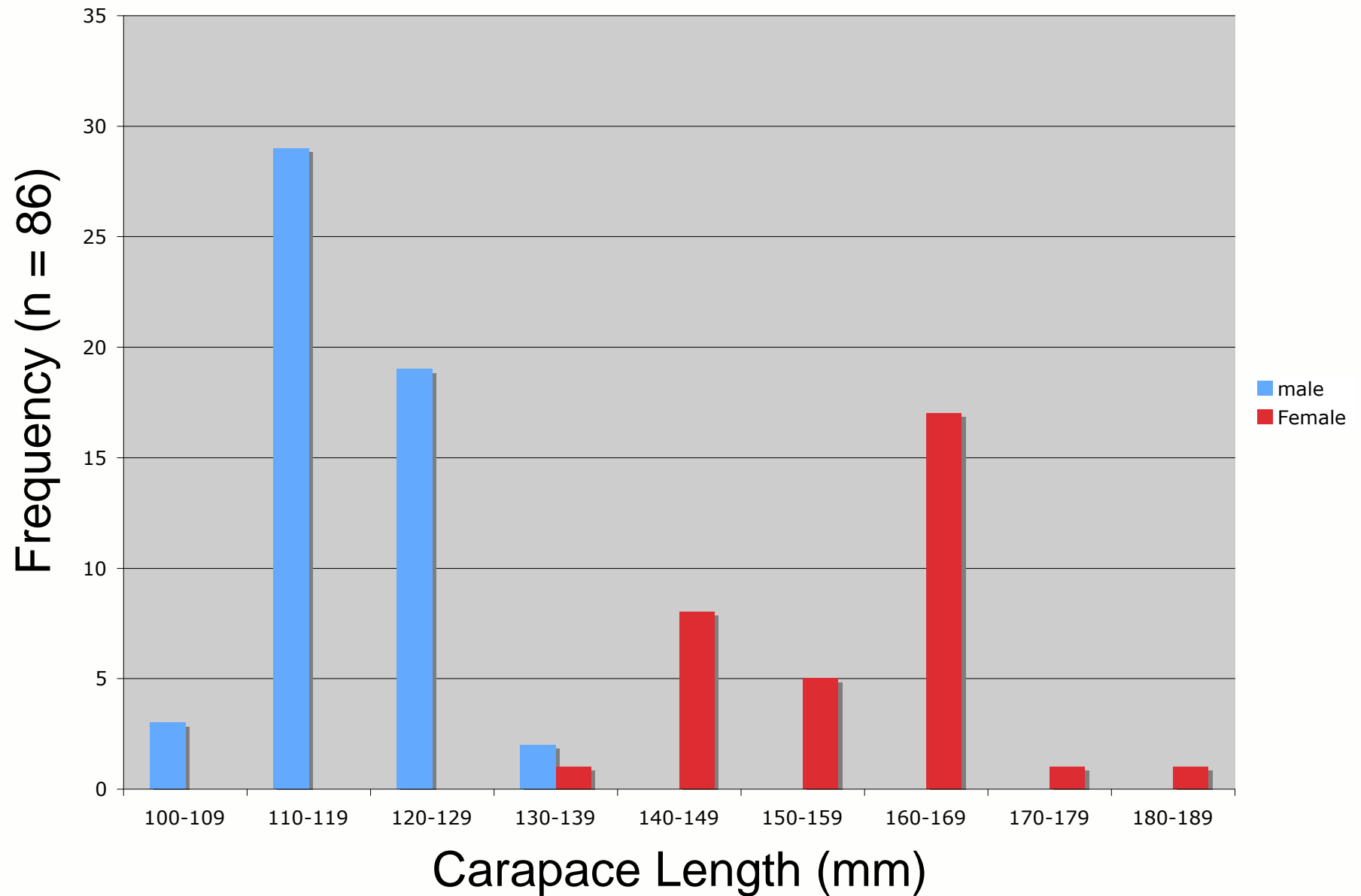
90 terrapin captures in 14 creeks

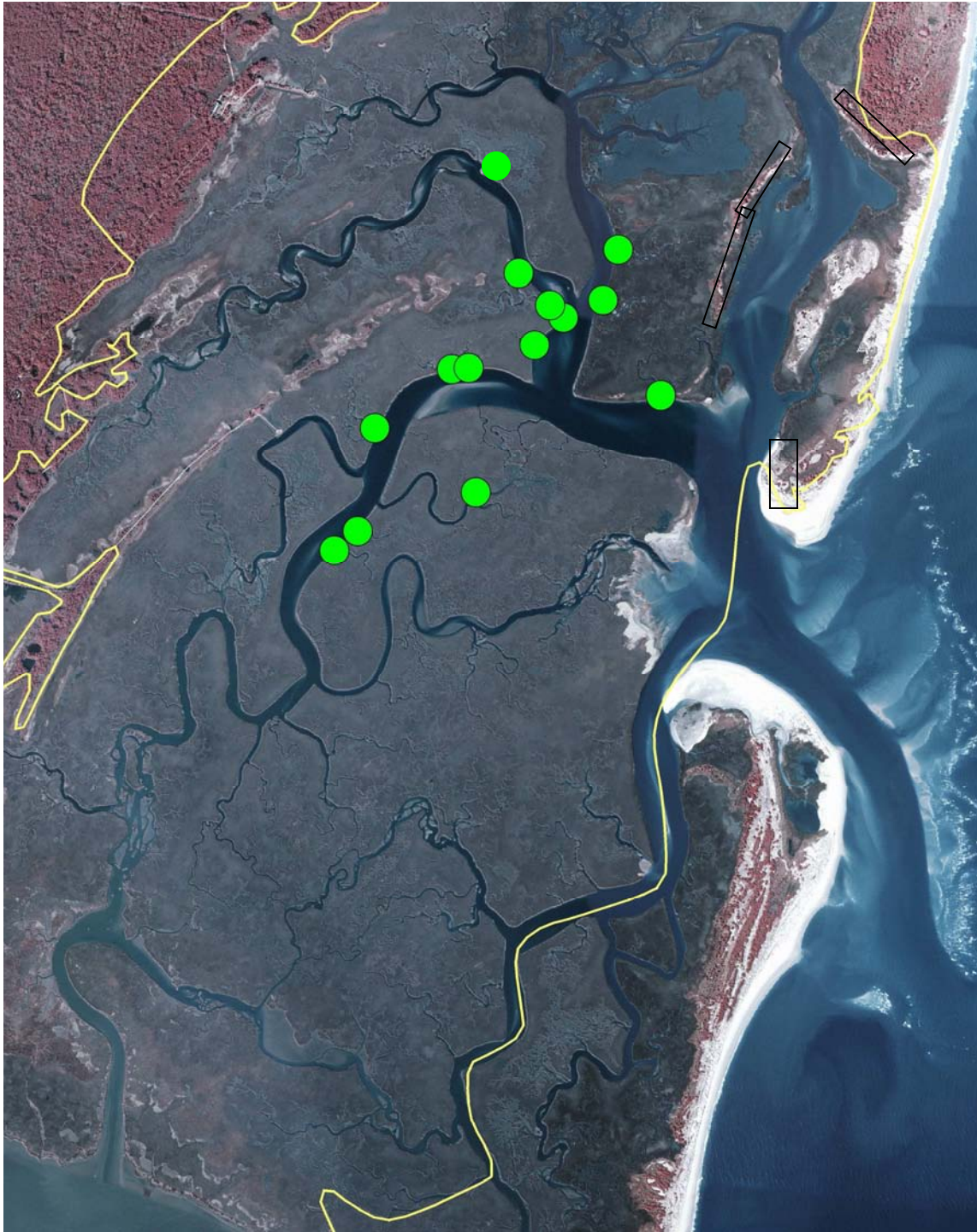
2 recaptures from OM, E5

2 recaptures, 1 from OM, E4
1 from OM, E5



Frequency of males and females by size class





Confirmed
nesting
areas



Evidence of nesting activity

May 30 - June 13

A photograph of a sandy beach. The sand is light-colored and textured. There are several tracks visible, including a prominent one in the lower right quadrant that appears to be a large animal's paw print. Other smaller tracks and indentations are scattered across the surface. Some dry, brown sticks and debris are lying on the sand. The text "More tracks" is overlaid in the upper right area of the image.

More tracks

Possible nest





Depredated terrapin nest
June 26 - October 3

A photograph of a long, thin, greyish object, possibly a fox or dog, lying on a sandy surface. The object is elongated and appears to be made of a material that is somewhat translucent and has a wrinkled texture. It is positioned vertically in the center of the frame. The background is a light-colored, sandy surface with some scattered debris, including small twigs and leaves. The text "Fox or dog" is overlaid on the right side of the image in a black, sans-serif font.

Fox or dog



Raccoon tracks near depredated nests

Public use of nesting sites



Abandoned crab traps





Megacephaly





By catch



Conclusions to date

- Distribution of sizes indicates recruitment
- Little known about juveniles
- High incidence of nest depredation
- No evidence of crab trap mortality
- Recommend nest site protection and predator control

Thanks to the following for help

Karen Philips

Pat Cloninger

Lacy Danikas

Travis Knowles

Jeff Camper

Kirk Dineley

Nicole Reuter

Philip Vernon

Tony Arthur

Edward Arnold

Rebecca Koontz

Jeremy Capps

Anton Capers

Stephanie Miller

Whit Gibbons et al

Dennis Allen et al

(BFML)



Funding and assistance
FMU, Baruch Foundation, BMFL

